

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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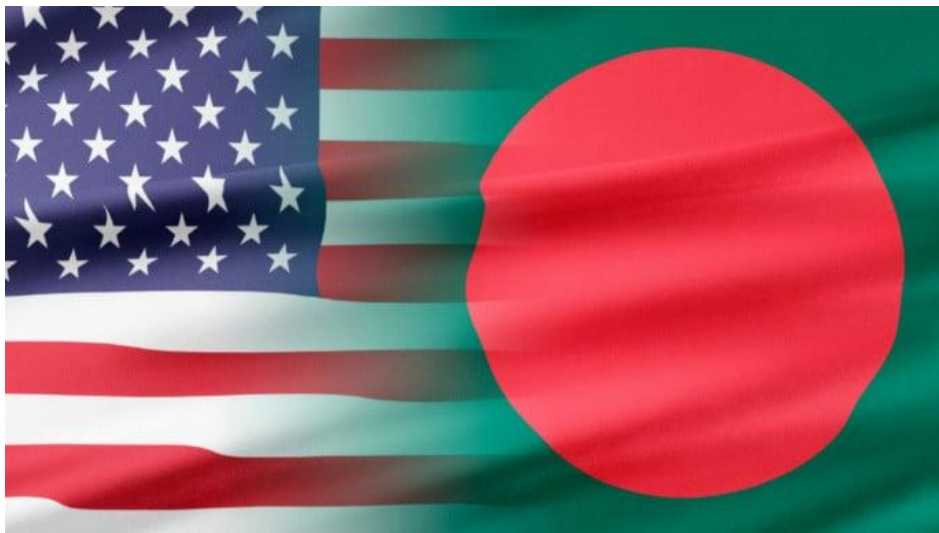
Kuwait Explores Defence Pact With Pakistan

- Oil-rich Kuwait, following in the footsteps of Saudi Arabia, is in talks with Pakistan to conclude a defence pact amid Iran's renewed attacks on Gulf states' infrastructure in retaliation for US strikes.
- Islamabad is reportedly negotiating a broader defence agreement with Kuwait in return for energy cooperation and investment in resource-deficit Pakistan, according to persons familiar with the development.
- Kuwait is reportedly seeking a comprehensive defence partnership that includes deployment of thousands of Pakistani troops, fighter jets, drones and air defence systems on its territory, according to a person cited above. There are reports that the conflict in the Persian Gulf region could widen in the coming weeks.
- Riyadh has reportedly advised Kuwait to conclude a defence pact with Pakistan following the attacks Gulf states have faced since the outbreak of the US-Iran war.
- Kuwait's leadership debated the issue of broadening defence ties with Pakistan before deciding to begin negotiations. The two countries have maintained a limited defence partnership focused on joint military exercises since 2023.



US And Bangladesh Armies Launch Tiger Lightning 26 Bilateral Exercise

- The United States Army and the Bangladesh Armed Forces will officially commence the annual Tiger Lightning exercise on Sunday, as confirmed by the US Embassy in Dhaka.
- This bilateral exercise brings together more than 160 service members from both nations, aiming to enhance collaboration and strengthen their ability to operate effectively in real-world scenarios.
- Tiger Lightning 26 will focus on jungle operations, counter-terrorism drills, and tactical combat casualty care. These training modules provide both armies with an opportunity to better understand each other's operational capabilities and approaches to complex battlefield conditions.
- The exercise is designed to improve readiness and foster interoperability between the two forces.
- The program forms part of the United States Army Pacific's Theatre Army Campaign Plan and broader security cooperation objectives.



India Condemns US Strike On Chabahar Port

- The Iranian Embassy in India has strongly condemned the recent United States military strikes on Iran's Shahid Kalantari Port in Chabahar, describing the attack as a "war crime."
- The Embassy accused Washington of deliberately targeting civilian and economic infrastructure, asserting that such actions constitute a violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.

- In its statement, the Embassy emphasised that the United States has obligations under international law to protect civilian assets during armed conflict.
- It argued that by striking the Chabahar Port surveillance tower, the US demonstrated disregard for these obligations and further undermined global norms governing warfare.
- The condemnation followed confirmation from US Central Command (CENTCOM) that its forces had destroyed the surveillance tower at Chabahar Port.
- CENTCOM stated that the facility was part of a maritime surveillance network operated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to monitor commercial shipping in the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz.
- CENTCOM added that the operation was part of the ongoing US naval blockade against Iran. It claimed that the destruction of the tower directly degraded the IRGC's capacity to target civilian crew members and reinforced efforts to protect maritime traffic, except for vessels attempting to breach the blockade.



Lokesh Machines Wins ₹58 Crore Indian Army Contract

- Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machines has secured a ₹58.21 crore (\$6 million) contract from the Indian Army to supply modification kits for FN MAG 7.62×51mm medium machine guns, marking a major expansion of its role in India's defence manufacturing program.
- This order significantly boosts its order book and aligns with the government's push for indigenous defence production under the 'Make in India' initiative.
- Lokesh Machines Limited announced that the contract was awarded by the Master General Sustenance Branch of the Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Army).

- The order is valued at ₹58,20,89,421 inclusive of all duties and taxes. It involves the supply of MOD kits designed to enhance the operational capability of the FN MAG 7.62×51mm medium machine gun, a widely used platform in the Indian Army.
- Lokesh Machines' successful entry into defence manufacturing highlights the growing role of private industry in India's strategic programs. Precision engineering, adherence to stringent quality standards, and the ability to deliver complex defence equipment are now central to its business model.



Ex Pitch Black 2026 At Darwin

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) starts Ex Pitch Black 2026 tomorrow at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin. Scheduled from 20 July 26 to 07 August 26, Exercise Pitch Black is the RAAF's premier biennial multinational air combat exercise. The exercise derives its name from its emphasis on night flying over the vast un-populated areas of northern Australia. In the exercise's 45-year long history, this edition features large quantum of participating forces, bringing together military personnel for complex Large Force Employment and multinational air combat operations.
- The IAF contingent comprises of highly skilled Air Warriors including pilots, engineers, technicians, controllers and other subject matter experts. The contingent will operate the Rafale multirole fighter aircraft, supported by the C-17 Globemaster-III and the IL-78 Air-to-Air Refueling aircraft in combat support roles. The exercise will provide the participating forces with a valuable opportunity to enhance interoperability, strengthen force integration and exchange operational best practices towards a collaborative conduct of operations in the global scenarios.

- Exercise Pitch Black 26 provides an excellent opportunity to validate expeditionary air operations over extended distances, enhance multinational interoperability and strengthen professional partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region. The exercise will enable participating air forces to operate in a realistic and challenging_ multinational environment, fostering greater operational synergy and mutual understanding. The IAF has previously participated in the 2018, 2022 and 2024 editions of the exercise, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening defence cooperation and regional security.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Kuwait is reportedly negotiating a comprehensive defence pact with which country?

- A) India
- B) Türkiye
- C) Pakistan
- D) Egypt

Answer: C) Pakistan

2. Under the proposed Kuwait–Pakistan defence partnership, Kuwait is expected to receive all of the following EXCEPT:

- A) Pakistani troops
- B) Fighter jets

C) Air defence systems

D) Nuclear submarines

Answer: D) Nuclear submarines

3. Tiger Lightning 26 is a bilateral military exercise conducted between the armed forces of:

A) India and Bangladesh

B) United States and Bangladesh

C) United States and Pakistan

D) Bangladesh and Australia

Answer: B) United States and Bangladesh

4. Tiger Lightning 26 primarily focuses on which of the following training areas?

A) Naval warfare and anti-piracy operations

B) Mountain warfare and cyber security

C) Jungle warfare, counter-terrorism, and tactical combat casualty care

D) Amphibious assault operations

Answer: C) Jungle warfare, counter-terrorism, and tactical combat casualty care

5. The United States military confirmed that it targeted which facility at Iran's Chabahar Port?

A) Naval Dockyard

B) Oil Storage Terminal

C) Surveillance Tower

D) Container Terminal

Answer: C) Surveillance Tower

6. According to the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), the surveillance facility at Chabahar Port was operated by:

A) Iranian Navy

B) Iranian Air Force

C) Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

D) Iranian Coast Guard

Answer: C) Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

7. Lokesh Machines Limited recently received a ₹58.21 crore contract from the Indian Army to supply modification kits for which weapon?

A) AK-203 Assault Rifle

B) FN MAG 7.62×51 mm Medium Machine Gun

C) SIG Sauer Rifle

D) INSAS Rifle

Answer: B) FN MAG 7.62×51 mm Medium Machine Gun

8. The contract awarded to Lokesh Machines aligns with which Government of India initiative?

A) Digital India

B) Smart Cities Mission

C) Make in India

D) Startup India

Answer: C) Make in India

9. Exercise Pitch Black 2026 is hosted by the:

A) United States Air Force

B) Indian Air Force

C) Royal Australian Air Force

D) Royal Air Force (United Kingdom)

Answer: C) Royal Australian Air Force

10. Which aircraft is NOT part of the Indian Air Force contingent participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2026?

A) Rafale Fighter Aircraft

B) C-17 Globemaster III

C) IL-78 Air-to-Air Refuelling Aircraft

D) Tejas Mk1A Fighter Aircraft

Answer: D) Tejas Mk1A Fighter Aircraft

11. ICGS Saksham Is A

A. Destroyer

B. Aircraft Carrier

C. OPV

D. Refueling Ship

ANSWER: C

12. "Nuclearization of Asia" Book Written By

A. Rene Naba

B. VR Chaudhari

C. Gen Parvez Musharraf

D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

13. Indian Coast Guard Formed On

- A. August 18, 1978
- B. September 18, 1978
- C. March 18, 1976
- D. April 18, 1976

ANSWER: A

14. 'MBT Bhishma' Is The Name Of :

- A. Fighter aircraft
- B. Tank
- C. Armoured vehicles
- D. Infantry regiments

ANSWER: B

15. Barak Is A

- A. Surface-to-air Missile
- B. Surface-to-Surface Missile
- C. Air-to-air Missile
- D. Surface-to-Sea Missile

ANSWER: A

16. INS Valsura Located At

- A. Jamnagar, Gujrat
- B. Mumbai, M.H
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. A & NC

ANSWER: A

17. Exercise Maitree Conducted B/w India &

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

18. Infantry School Of Indian Army Is At

- A. Mhow
- B. Bhopal

- C. Gwalior
- D. Jammu

ANSWER: A

19. Officers Training Academy Is At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gaya
- D. Both A & C

ANSWER: D

20. The IAI Heron UAV Developed By

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: C